



# MONTEREY NEWS

November 1998  
VOLUME XXVIII • Number 11



## TOWN NEWS

The Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 28 to vote on the proposed per pupil method of assessment, has been rescheduled for December 2 at 7:30 at the Monterey Fire House. However even that meeting is in jeopardy due to Sheffield's recent realization that, under the per pupil assessment method, they would see a ten percent increase in their school assessment.

During the October 27 School Committee meeting Superintendent William Cooper announced that while Sheffield had been willing to entertain a possible six percent raise in the school tax, with a resulting increase of about \$200,000, they were not able to support the ten percent jump in assessment that would result in a \$315,000 increase. According to Cooper the increased assessment figures are based on enrollment figures as of October 1 and reflect an additional ten students from Sheffield.

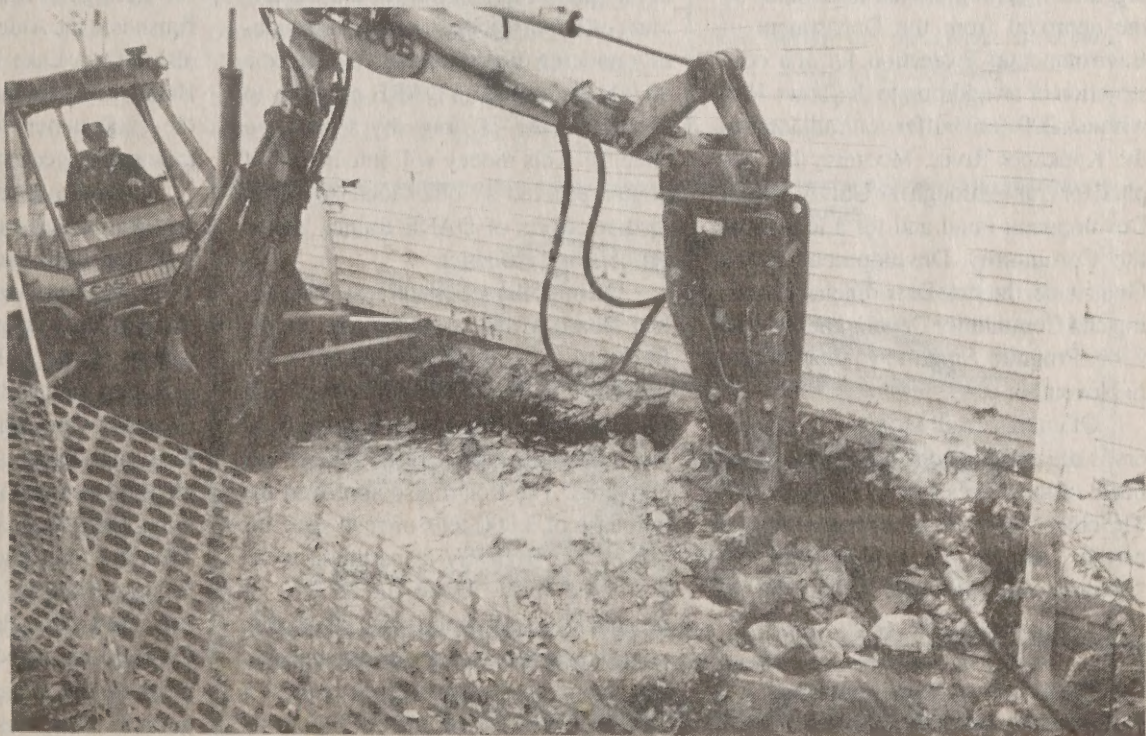
The article on which Monterey is currently scheduled to vote proposes to calculate the school assessment based on the number of pupils from each town, provided that each Town's assessment meets

its minimum local contribution as determined by the Department of Education. The agreement would be valid for three years or, from FY 1999 through FY 2002. The initial meeting, planned for October 28, was rescheduled due to concerns that the wording of the previous agreement would have the towns voting on the per-pupil method every year for three years. As the agreement now reads, the five towns will only have to vote once to pass the three-year agreement.

During the interim three years the district towns will be working to find a method of taxation which is deemed to be equitable and can be made permanent. If the five towns fail to reach such an agreement, taxing would automati-

cally revert to that mandated under the Education Reform Act, which Sheffield has also historically opposed. The new agreement to be voted on December 2 states that no town in the district shall seek to recover assessment over charges.

Town Survey Opinions are still needed from all the Town boards to begin assembling a survey to assess the needs of the community. Few boards have responded to the call for help in creating the questionnaire that will be mailed to all residents and taxpayers. The original deadline for the sample questions was September 5, but input is still requested. Select Board member Peter Brown, who initiated the survey idea, said that he alone could fill a survey with questions, but the Select Board would



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*"And on this rock I will build my church..." A great idea until it's time to renovate. Plans for the Monterey Meeting House move forward as an operator using a backhoe equipped with a jackhammer, chips away at some ledge to make room for the handicapped access addition.*

like a wider variety of ideas. These questions may touch on all aspects of life in Monterey: budget development, library changes, recreational facilities, road maintenance, etc.

Having a survey is one of the first steps towards creating a master plan for the town, which in many cases in necessary to obtain a broad range of grants for which Monterey may qualify. One reason Monterey was turned down for the Small Cities grant last year was due to the lack of such a document. The state Office for Environmental Affairs recently commended Becket for its Open Space and Recreation plan, the objective of which is to protect the rural character and water resources of the town, while fostering recreational planning. Having such plans makes the town eligible for state grants and may help Monterey in the same way.

Town Hall plans await grant funding, although progress has been made by the approval from the Department of Environmental Protection for the construction of an addition to the Town Hall within a 200-foot buffer zone adjacent to the Konkapot River. Monterey has applied for grants through the USDA's Rural Development Fund and for a loan from the Community Development Block Grant under the state Department of Housing and Community Development Small Cities Program. Some news should come in November.

Of interest to all Monterey gun owners is the enforcement, beginning October 1, of the state's new gun control law. The chief objectives of the law are to ban certain weapons, i.e. assault rifles and "Saturday night specials," to limit the use

of weapons by people who are suspect of criminal violations and of domestic violence, to intensify checks of applicants for firearms, and to strengthen penalties for firearm offenses. All current firearm licenses will be valid and renewable on the expiration date shown on the license. Thereafter they will be renewable every



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*A very fit Lanoue, perched atop his rowing machine, holds some of his hard-won hardware from the past rowing season.*

four years. A complete copy of the law is available at the Town Hall.

Chief Backhaus succeeded in gaining a grant of \$16,000 from the Department of Public Safety to further community policing efforts, and also received a \$6,000 grant for the DARE program to curtail the use of drugs by school-age children. This money will into a pool of grants received by other local towns to further efforts of DARE trained police officers in the district.

Of miscellaneous interest. The Select Board voted to participate in the Berkshire County Commissioner's co-operative purchase of winter rock salt from the International Salt Company, at the bid-award price of \$31.89 per ton delivered. The Board also approved the purchase of 3,000 tons of road sand for use by the Highway Department to be delivered by J. Donovan & Son of Stockbridge at the price of \$7.65 per ton.

Mr. and Mrs. Schneiderman met with the Board on October 19 to request a balcktop surface to be laid on Hupi Road because of drainage problems.

— Jane Black

## HE'S GOTTA REGATTA

### Lanoue Wins Division In Top Race

Harlan (Lanny) Lanoue placed first in the Alden Ocean Shell division of the Head of the Charles Regatta held in Boston on October 17 and 18. His first time competing in this prestigious three-mile race, Lanoue out paced eighty boats of the same class and earned his division first place in twenty six minutes.

The Head of the Charles Regatta is the largest regatta in the world with 5700 rowers and approximately 2600 boats of various classes. Competitors come from rowing clubs, private and public schools, colleges, and from as far away as the United Kingdom and Australia.

#### Highlights of

Lanoue's successful season include a first place in the Alden Ocean Shell division of the Bernie Ryan Regatta, held on Stockbridge Bowl, and three second-place finishes at the Alden Ocean Shell Nationals, held in Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire; one in the 1200 meter sprint, the 1200 meter doubles, and the four-mile endurance event.

Lanoue has been rowing since 1985 and trains daily during the season on Lake Garfield. He began competing in 1986 and has always placed in the top three of his division in each of his races. Lanny, as he is known around town, said that he has had help and encouragement from friends and neighbors: Fran and Dean Amidon have always cheered him on during his training sessions from their Lake Garfield home; Tom and Jane Thorn have allowed him to store his boat at their house on the lake; and when the drawdown of Lake Garfield occurred a scant two weeks prior to the Head of the Charles Regatta, Lanoue was able to train on Lake Buel and store his boat at the home of Egon Fromm.

— Maggie Leonard

The Monterey News is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

## MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Many people in Monterey, especially those who are not full-time residents, are not aware of what happens when they call in a medical emergency. Like most other areas in the U.S. Monterey has a 911 emergency system. But do you know what to expect when you make that call?

Fire Chief Ray Tryon of the Monterey Fire Company described the typical response to a medical emergency call: the 911 dispatcher will ask for your name, house number, and a brief description of the situation. During this exchange it is imperative that the caller remain as calm as possible, and speak clearly and concisely when giving information. The dispatcher then pushes a button that simultaneously activates the Monterey Fire Company and the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad. Tryon said that within two minutes a medical unit from the Fire Company is en route, with three trained Emergency Medical Technicians who are fully equipped with emergency medical gear, including a defibrillator for use in cases of cardiac arrest. Tryon stated that the motto of the Monterey Fire Company is "The best possible care in the shortest period of time."

Tryon referred to the "Golden Hour:" in cases of severe trauma timely emergency medical care can literally be the difference between life and death. In cases of head injury there is the danger of the brain swelling, and when body parts are crushed or severely traumatized, the sooner surgery takes place the better the outlook for recovery and use of the limbs. For heart attacks the time frame has been shortened to the first ten minutes, because the longer the heart muscle is in distress the more extensive the damage. EMT's from the Fire Company are recertified for defibrillator operation every three months.

Back to the scenario of our 911 medical emergency. Along with the EMT's from the Fire Company, the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad (SBVAS) is also sent to the scene of the emergency. Working out of Fairview Hospital, the SBVAS will generally arrive in fifteen to thirty minutes. These

volunteers are trained EMT's and are under the direction of the emergency on-call physician at Fairview Hospital. Their protocol is to take patients to Fairview unless another hospital is requested. If the Southern Berkshire squad is out on call, Monterey has back up service from Otis, Sandisfield, or New Marlborough.

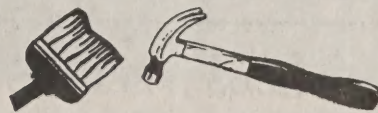
For cases of severe trauma there are the Life Star and Life Flight helicopters, which operate out of Bay State Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut, and Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York. According to Tryon it takes approximately fifteen minutes to reach Monterey via helicopter from Albany, seventeen minutes from Hartford, and ten minutes from Springfield. The Life Star and Life Flight helicopters are fully equipped units staffed by emergency medical physicians, and are designed to have victims of serious injury at a Level One trauma center in a matter of minutes.

There has been some question as to who chooses which hospital. Tryon said that ideally a family member at the scene makes the decision. If no member of the family is present then the decision is at the discretion of the incident commander on the scene, usually Chief Tryon. Tryon admitted that there has been some controversy in this regard because he believes that in some cases

it is better to transport a patient to Berkshire Medical Center, where there are more options for treatment of traumatic injuries, rather than Fairview Hospital. Tryon stated that he has met with the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad, they have discussed this and other issues, and that they now have a very good working relationship.

You may never need this important information regarding the options of emergency medical care, but if you are on the scene of an accident or an emergency at least you'll have an idea what to expect.

— Maggie Leonard



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## WINTER HOURS FOR TRANSFER STATION

The winter hours for the Monterey Transfer Station will commence on October 25, 1998, as follows:

Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

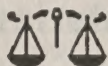
Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (unchanged)

Saturday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (unchanged)

Application for authorized users' vehicles may be obtained at the Town Hall at any time; completed applications, together with fee, may be mailed or left at the Town Hall. The sticker will be mailed to the applicant.

— Monterey Select Board

### CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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*A sign of the season, Jack enjoys some of the last of the warm weather in his Adirondack chair, stating "Just leaf me alone and I'm happy."*

## FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Free cholesterol and blood pressure screenings will be administered on Tuesday, November 17. This free health screening, held in the basement of the Town Hall, is offered to all age groups. The program is conducted in cooperation with Fairview Hospital, the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association and the Monterey Council on Aging.

— Pauline Nault

## NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL/ MONTEREY SCHOOL NEWS

Cranberry bogs in the Berkshires? In Shared Discovery anything is possible. This school-wide program allows for thrice monthly mini-courses in which students and teachers explore a variety of subjects. This month's session was a potpourri of teacher's choice. Leaf print making, music and dance, cranberry growing, finger printing and mazes were the offerings. Next month the theme is Africa.

It does take a village to raise a child. Every year the New Marlborough Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad makes sure that our children are raised with an awareness of fire prevention and safety. This year the children were encouraged to make a home escape plan. One plan will be chosen to be judged on a national basis. Everyone will come out a winner if they know how to exit a burning building and thanks to the NMVFR they know this and more about fire safety.

A recent field trip to Undermountain Elementary School gave students an opportunity to watch children's book author and illustrator Eileen Christelow, recreate her drawings that appear in her many books for young children.

**Save this date: December 5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for the annual PTA Holiday Sale** at New Marlborough Central School, Mill River. Christmas Trees will be on sale for just ten dollars! Baked Goods will be sold—just think, home-baked goodies without the fuss. There will be a "Not Just for Kids Book Sale" offered by Troll Book Company with hardcover, softcover and gift books, and the Maple Syrup pickup (pre-ordered sales only—watch for the order form in November from local students).

— Deborah Mielke

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## POWER STEERING

Two local boys, Noah Wixom and Andrew Crawford, are keeping an old agricultural tradition alive in Monterey. They train working steers (young oxen) and represented Berkshire County in the 4-H working steer contest at the Eastern States Exposition, or Big E, competing against thirty one other contestants from the six New England states. Noah, who is seventeen, has competed at the Big E for three years and was Massachusetts state champion in 1997 and '98. This was fifteen year-old Andrew's first trip to the Big E. Both boys did very well for the Massachusetts team. Noah placed fourth over all with all blue points (the highest category). Andrew earned two red places (second-highest category) and a white (third category). In addition to these events, Noah won the best youth teamster award at the region-wide contest in Brooklyn, Connecticut.

There are three mandatory classes in the 4-H competitions. In fitting and showing the teamsters are judged on their care and grooming of the animals and the rapport they have with their team. Pulling the weighted stoneboat tests the skills of the team and teamster in methods which would be used in logging. In the cart class, the team pulls a cart through an obstacle course duplicating challenges occurring in everyday farm yard work. Both youths also showed off their training skills in an optional class, driving their teams without yokes and other tricks.

Noah got his first calf to train when he was twelve and volunteering in the farm program at Hancock Shaker Village. If you visited Hancock a few years ago, you may have seen Noah working with Abe on farm machinery made for a single draft animal or driving the pairs of oxen. Since then Noah has trained three teams of his own which many of you may have seen in the Monterey parades or walking on Routes 57 or 23. Noah often raises animals which are rare breeds, helping to conserve old, multi-purpose types which are being lost as farms concentrate on more specialized breeds.



Andrew leads Zack and Zeb in the stoneboat class of the 4-H competition at the 1998 Big E. Photo courtesy of Ann Hanchett-Boland.

Andrew joined the 4-H working steers program two years ago when he began training two Holstein calves. He has shown his team in various county shows and at Hancock Shaker Village. He and Noah are helping to expand the agricultural part of the Barrington fair.

Both boys make their own yokes and whips and Noah builds a lot of the equipment he uses in logging and other agricultural work. He has sold yokes to other teamsters and sells the firewood he collects with his teams.

The local communities were very generous in their sponsorship of the Berkshire 4-H group. Brookmead Farm, the Lake Buel General Store, and Gail and Bob Heath from Monterey were instrumental in the boys' success, as well as businesses from Great Barrington, Sheffield, and Lee.

— Ann Hanchett-Boland

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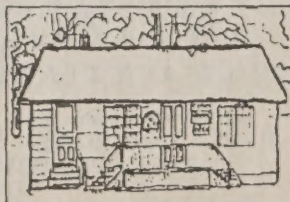
*"The pancakes should be denoted by hubcap size ....*

*Small is a Honda, medium is a Ford Taurus,  
and large is a Mac truck."*

*-- Matthew Brewer, a Roadside regular*

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## GOULD FARM

It seems so peaceful, looking out our windows here at the Farm, the leaves gracefully falling, the grey mists and honking geese rolling through. It's good to find some peacefulness outside, since on our side of the windows things just don't seem to stop moving. With the fall influx of new volunteers settled in, a rush of new activities has swept the Farm. Some of us have been jamming on guitar Sunday nights, or quilting with Eric on Monday nights, or swing dancing with Christal on Thursday nights, or going on a twenty-mile hiking and camping trip on the Appalachian Trail earlier this month for three days and two nights. Knitting, too, has been sweeping the farm into a tangle of projects worked on day, night, and through most meetings.

More new happenings include the move of a shiny new grill into the Roadside Store, a new convection oven into the main kitchen, and two new sewing machines donated by the Nassau Family Foundation into the weaving studio. We've received grants from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation: a new pottery wheel, a scholarship for a photography class at Interlaken Arts Center, and a scholarship for a weekend workshop at the Kripalu Center. We're very excited about these new tools and opportunities as they serve to nurture the enthusiasm of staff and guests alike.

To celebrate our Eighty-fifth anniversary this fall, we are cosponsoring a Thanksgiving social dinner with the Great Barrington Senior Center. Anyone interested in a dinner of good food, good company, good music, (and maybe even some swing dancing) is invited! The time and place of the festivities are still being discussed. Transportation will be provided for anyone who needs it. Please spread the word and watch for further notice. For more information call Heidi at Gould Farm, 528-1804, or Terry at the Great Barrington Senior Center, 528-1881.

— Heidi Haverkamp

## WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID?

Recently I was asked by some clergy friends if I had an e-mail address. I responded by saying that not only did I not have an e-mail address, but that I did not have the electronic equipment to receive one! There was a look of puzzlement and then the encouraging note that soon there would be financial assistance for church pastors such as I to buy the means to this wonderful world of communication.

I came away from the conversation engrossed in a renewed internal discussion about the merits of having an e-mail address. Some of you who read these ramblings know that I am by no means convinced about the value of the wave of communication gadgetry that is overtaking us. (A recent capitulation was the purchasing of a fax machine!) More important than the gadgetry, of course, is the question: for what purpose? The electronics in question, that is, computers, laptops, etc., remain indifferent to all my mental debates. There is no question that communication is facilitated by these wondrous implements. The next question is: What communication? Marshall McLuhan's well used expression that the medium is the message has interesting ramifications in our media-driven age. I am inclined to believe that as the array of communication techniques has increased (and continues to expand) there has been a corresponding decrease in the substantive message itself. In other words, we have more ways to say less!

In a recent issue of the quarterly "The Plough", there was a comment from a former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa. Sudanese villagers were surprised on seeing, for the first time, a house with plumbing. Not only unimpressed, they were openly disdainful: "When will people come out of their houses and talk with their neighbors if no one needs to come to the well anymore?"

Shifting the frame of reference from plumbing to communication, it is easy to see how we are becoming more and more isolated from one another. In a profound sense, you and I, friends, are the message. And that is easily lost in

our infatuation with all the electronic gadgetry. From domestic relations to racial relations, from national politics (the current Congressional races) to international arbitration; it is absolutely imperative for people to be sitting down with one another. Consider the recent efforts on the Maryland shore between Clinton, Arafat and Netanyahu with the Mideast Peace talks. Face to face communication greatly improves the possibilities for not only listening but also hearing on a deeper level.

So, you see, what is said before, during, and after the Sunday worship service, what is said inside and outside the Post Office and the General Store (as well as what we talk about on that other gadget, the telephone) has profound implications for the health of our

community. The tone and the text of our comments are tremendously important. After all is said and done, the technical wizardry that is washing over us these days is still-and never will be in my humble opinion-no substitute for sitting down over a cup of coffee or tea and asking, "How are you?" and then truly listening to one another.

— Keith Snow, Pastor  
Monterey United Church of Christ

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There will be a Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 25, at 7:30 p.m. In the tradition of the holiday this will be a nondenominational service and everyone is welcome.

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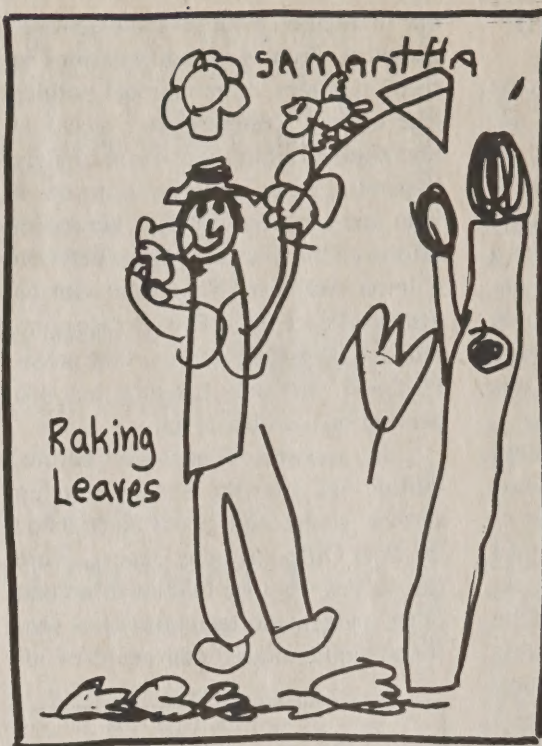
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## THE FAMILY NETWORK CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

The Family Network is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington; call 528-0721 for more information. All activities are at the Family Center, unless otherwise noted.

As the weather turns chillier and more inclement, children and parents are indoors more often. Be sure to take time to exercise in some simple way. Move to music on the radio or tape player by dancing and marching. Make a game of dancing by turning off the music and have people freeze in position. Parents can make a simple obstacle course in the house by moving furniture. Children can crawl under tables, climb over pillows, walk on a rope (on the floor), do a roll. Put out some empty boxes and let children try to knock them down with a



ball. Put out an empty waste basket and let children roll up paper and try to throw into the basket. Also, be sure to have quiet time to read to your child and let your child read to you. Help them to enjoy this lifetime skill.

We are happy to welcome new staff members, Gretchen Courage as Early Childhood Education Consultant and Jessica Redman as Play and Learn playgroup teacher.

**New Sandisfield play group.** There will be a parent-child playgroup at the Community Center in Sandisfield beginning November 3 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The play group will meet every Tuesday following the school calendar, no school-no playgroup. Families are invited to attend and have the opportunity to meet other families with young children. Children will be able to play together in a child-safe environment and with age appropriate toys. Children must be following an immunization schedule and be in good health to participate. This program is funded by the Massachusetts Department of

Education and is free of charge to area families. For more information, please call The Family Center in Great Barrington at 413-528-0721.

Forms for the Eagle Santa Fund will be available at the Children's Health Program departments as of November 1. Please follow income guidelines. Families living in Lee must apply for the Toy Fund in Lee. For other gift programs, please con-

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tact Community Services, Castle Street, Great Barrington.

**Drop-in times** at Great Barrington site, Mondays and Fridays, noon to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Due to staff scheduling, changes have been made for other times, please call to make an appointment.

**Otis site**, Town Hall, second floor, Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Every Monday and Friday, Play and Learn Group for three and four year olds. Registration is required, 9-11 a.m. Please call to pre-register.

**Here is our calendar.**

**Every Tuesday**, Mother-Baby Exercise class, 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required and childcare will be provided.

**Every Tuesday**, English as a Second Language (ESL) class 9:30 a.m. Childcare will be provided. Please call to register.

**Every Wednesday and Thursday**, Playgroup will be held at the Family Center in Great Barrington, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Some special events will also be planned on Thursdays.

**November 3, 10, 17**, Parenting Sessions with Maggie Sadoway, 1-2:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided. Please call to register.

**November 3**, Licensed Daycare Providers meeting, 7 p.m.

**November 4**, Playgroup Leaders meeting, 6:30 p.m. How To Lead Circle Time with Gretchen Courage.

**November 5**, Parent-child activity, Reading Readiness activities and information, led by Gretchen Courage, a free book will be given to each child to celebrate literacy month, 1-2:30 p.m. Call to register.

**November 6**, Parent-child activity, Haircutting Tips, led by Olympia Casivant, 1 p.m. Call to register.

**November 9**, Car Repair Tips and How To's led by Marvin Casivant of Casivant Auto Repair, 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Fathers Group. Call to register and let us know if childcare is needed. The public is invited.

**November 10**, Setting Limits with Gretchen Courage, 7 p.m. Lee Youth Association, Call 528-0721 to register and for childcare needs.

**November 11**, First Aid class led by Marsha Harvey, R.N. 6-9 p.m. Call to register.

**November 12**, Setting Limits with Gretchen Courage, Otis Town Hall, 10-11:30 a.m. Call Eileen Doot 269-8911 to register and for childcare needs.

**November 14**, Second Anniversary Celebration of the Family Center in Great Barrington, Fun With Music led by Happy Dan The Music Man, 10:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

**November 16**, volunteer workshop in Holyoke, Parenting and Intimate Relationships Among American Women. Call for more information.

**November 18**, Refresher CPR for Infants and Children, for people who have taken the regular CPR for infants and children in the past, led by Marsha Harvey, R.N., Call to register.

**November 23**, Budget Tips led by Scott Danis, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Fathers' Group, call to register and for childcare needs. The public is invited.

**November 25**, Family Center in Great Barrington will be open 8 a.m.-noon.

**November 26**, Happy Thanksgiving. Center will be closed.

**November 27**, Center will be closed for regular activities.

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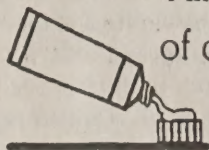
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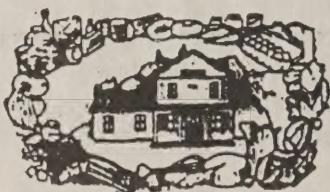
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## REP RAP

In September I went to the ribbon cutting for the new Farmington River School where over 200 parents, children, community members and school staff attended. The school was built with little controversy and a lot of community support.

The state-funded School Building Assistance Bureau, a program that allocates the state's share of money for new school construction, will be paying for a portion of the construction and equipment at the Farmington River School. However the backlog of schools awaiting funding is enormous and needs to be tackled today while we are in good financial shape. During the budget debate I offered foregoing the onetime fifty dollar tax cut in order to put that money towards school construction. People went for the tax cut and the matter was not taken up.

Due to the Legislature's vigilance we are finally seeing the school construction funds increase for this Fiscal Year at an increase of \$9 million over last year's figures. The regional school transportation line item has been woefully under funded for years, and has just this year received a \$4 million dollar increase over the Acting Governor's figures. Before we start patting ourselves on the back over what we have achieved since the 1993 Education Reform Act we need

to look at the areas where we have fallen short.

Teacher testing has become a hot campaign issue this fall for all candidates. There seems to be finger pointing about who is to blame for poor scores instead of evaluating the method in which we train our future teachers. People who want to dedicate their professional lives to preparing children for challenges and opportunities should not be dragged through the mud for political gains. Perhaps Cellucci should not have vetoed the \$3 million in higher education fund-raising incentives that encourage private fund raising at our public colleges and universities. The money raised by the schools goes right back into the campus.

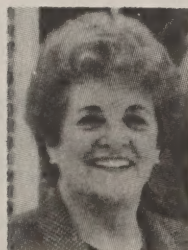
At a time when Massachusetts technology firms are among the best in the world we have the abysmal record of ranking thirtieth in the U.S. in terms of students per computer, and twenty fifth in terms of the percent of schools with on-line access. As you know things are not done with pen and paper, work is done through getting on-line and within minutes having a variety of resources at your fingertips. What if all our kids had the opportunity to learn how to use a computer at an early age and had access to information that enabled them to learn without bounds? The Legislature passed an Education Technology Bill in 1996 that provided an additional \$60 million to provide technology services and equipment to public schools, but this year the Acting Governor choose to veto \$ 6 million in new education technology funds. I have cosponsored a Community and School Technology Bill that will among other things bring high-speed internet connections to every school, municipality and library.

While we have made some gains in education, we still need to do much more, and we need leadership that will support true commitment to providing opportunities for the future for our children. They are well worth it.

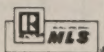
— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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## SENATOR SAYS

Legislators know that public education is an important part of their job. As Senate Chairman of the joint Committee on Election Laws, I am particularly interested in helping voters to understand their rights and responsibilities.

**The Election Game.** The Secretary of the Commonwealth, William Francis Galvin, has published an interactive program for students in Massachusetts titled, "The Election Game". The game requires minimal preparation time, and teachers are able to teach the lesson at their own pace. There are four steps to the game itself: step one is choosing an election theme, step two is nomination, step three is campaigning, and step four is voting. Teachers are given the option as to how much research about the election process the students will be required to do. The game can last anywhere from one class to one week, and students utilize the roles of the voters, election officers and candidates.

Students who wish to vote must be a member of the class to be eligible to vote in the election. The simulation requires that students register before the deadline by signing the Registration and Voting List with their name. After the subject of the election has been chosen, voters may nominate their candidates. All of the candidates that qualify are listed on the blackboard, for instance, and then students try to convince class members to vote for their candidates. Students are then able to write slogans and design campaign materials such as posters and bumper stickers. Election officers check off the voters' names who then vote and place the ballots in the ballot box. The ballots are then counted and reported to the teacher.

This simulated lesson is a great tool that gives students the opportunity to experience the election process first hand. Creative elements of the program enable students to become more interested and experienced about elections. The Election Game is a great way to prepare our young

citizens who plan to run for public office in the future, or who simply seek to better understand elections themselves.

**Publications.** New publications are available for citizens interested in understanding more about two of the most complex matters from this legislative session: electric utility deregulation and the state's transportation system.

*A Consumers' Guide to Understanding Changes In the Electric Industry in Massachusetts* provides consumers with important information regarding the changes made by the legislature to the electric industry. To obtain copies of the publication or to ask questions regarding changes to

the electric industry, please call the Commonwealth's toll-free hotline at (888) 758-4469 or my Boston office at (617) 722-1625.

The *1998 Massachusetts Transportation Facts* booklet provides readers with an overview of the state's transportation system and information pertaining to each of the components of the transportation network in Massachusetts. This includes highway, transit, rail, air, bicycle, pedestrian and water transportation aspects. To obtain copies of the publication please contact Paula Grey at (617) 973-7000 or my Boston office at (617) 722-1625.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo Jr.



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## GOSPEL OF FAREWELL

*as pretty as I've ever seen her*

*standing in October rains*

*arrayed as radiant as rainbow*

*with her sad transient smile*

*Monet comes closest to the matter*

*but no master masters this.*

*effluent ecstasy the faithful*

*singing gospels of farewell*

*oh Mama receive me once again*

*though I'm all bound up in pain*

*oh Mama receive me as a child*

*naked to the rains and wild*

*singing gospels of abundant times*

*stealing time from the reaper*

*swinging in the to and fro of scythes*

*while the harvest rakes it's toll*

*and although no master masters this,*

*somehow she dreams of heavens*

*sacred promise in the sleeping seed*

*transgressing her great bleakness*

*oh Mama receive me once again*

*though I'm all bound up in pain*

*oh Mama receive me as a child*

*naked to the rain and wild*

— R. Zukowski



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## HAIKU IN THE RAIN

*Cities in puddles*

*lay unwashed like tramps, asleep*

*needing still more drink.*

## VIETNAM

*Brief the morning mist*

*in the emerald forest.*

*Eternal the tears*

## TWINS

*While Spring flings rainbows*

*Autumn weeps her painted tears*

*At the antipode.*

— Lee Price

*I stare at my reflection  
Staring back at me  
Endless repetition  
in an endless world  
The truth of my existence  
is staring me in the face  
I am on the brink of understanding  
But I look away*

— Simon Spagnoletti

## AUSTERITY

*A lesson  
in austerity  
a tulip  
or a stone—  
what is done  
for sorrow  
must be done  
alone*

*bread you'll need  
in winter  
wine  
against the cold  
a single flame  
against the night  
when you are  
growing old*

*a lesson  
in austerity  
an empty road  
a bone—  
what is done  
for sorrow  
must be done  
alone.*

— A.O. Howell

## BEN FRANKLIN'S WILD TURKEY

Benjamin Franklin was an inventor, philosopher, an author of the Declaration of Independence, a newspaper man, an early electrician. He was the tenth son of seventeen children and his pen name was Richard Saunders. In 1776 it was he who travelled to France to ask for money and soldiers to help the colonists defeat the British, and by the end of the Revolutionary War, Franklin's diplomatic skills were so well-recognized that he was one of the diplomats chosen to negotiate a peace with the British. When we think of Ben Franklin, we picture a round little man in bifocals flying a kite in a thunderstorm, or lighting the streets of Philadelphia, or sitting at a desk with a quill pen in hand, thinking up aphorisms such as, "There is no little enemy," and "He that's secure is not safe," and "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage and half shut afterwards."

In 1784, in a letter to a friend, Franklin wrote: "I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country: he is a bird of bad moral character; like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. The turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

Of course, Ben Franklin was too

wise to judge, literally, the eagle or the turkey. Like many social commentators down the centuries, he found his little moralistic pills easier for people to swallow if they were coated with animal identities. We say, "The early bird catches the worm," when we mean, "Get out of bed, you lazy thing, or you will fail in all that

It was a combination of market hunting and habitat destruction which drove the turkey out and for a long time people tried in vain to introduce a different subspecies, the one which is our familiar Thanksgiving domestic turkey. This bird is another New World native but has never been a New Englander. When Hernan Cortes



you endeavor!" When Franklin wrote, "The cat in gloves catches no mice," he no more wrote of cats than did early Anonymous write of birds in "Who killed Cock Robin?"

Our wild turkey, the true native, was driven to extinction in these parts.

landed in Mexico and began the familiar program of white supremacy and annihilation of the dark-skinned native people, he found a southern wild turkey with a white band at the end of the tail feathers. After destroying Montezuma and the Aztecs, Cortes went home to Spain taking turkeys (and a lot more) with him.

Soon the white-tipped turkeys were domesticated in Spain and by 1600 they were favorites all over Europe. Not knowing what they would find to eat when they got here, the first colonists brought the descendent of the Mexican turkeys with them. These birds did not thrive here, and neither did the colonists at first. Thanks to the dark-skinned natives and the dark-tailed resident turkeys, the white folks survived. If there ever was a "dog" that bit the feeding hand, the descendents of those colonists

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are it. It wasn't long before both the turkeys and the Wampanoags were driven down in population, like the Lakota and the American bison on the Great Plains. Domesticated Mexican turkeys (via Spain, Europe, Turkey) were produced to fill the bill at our traditional feast day, but from 1851 until 1964 there were no wild turkeys in this state.

Attempts at reintroduction had been made. Wild turkeys were imported from other states and raised on game farms, then released. It was no use. The domesticated and game farm birds lacked the instincts necessary for survival. Finally, thirty seven wild birds from Allegheny State Park in New York were released here. By the mid 1980's the turkey population had soared to more than 2,500 birds and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, which did the work of reintroduction, declared a limited hunting season on males in early May.

The new wild population was so cagey, so successful, that the annual kill rate has always been quite low, around six to eight percent (ratio of turkeys taken to permits given out). Now turkeys are so numerous that their behavior has changed as they adjust to human pressures. Although they are said to be able to detect the blink of an eye at 500 feet, they do not necessarily run off. The National Wild Turkey Federation of Edgefield, South Carolina, says turkeys, like so many other wild populations, have moved into suburban and urban places. Scientists are calling this urban turkey a "new strain" of the wild type. They can be found in city parks and scout camps, in back yards, along busy highways.

In Kansas City and other parts of Missouri, turkeys have been so successful that the state considers them a "cash crop" and the Department of Conservation trades them with other states for scarce river otters and white bass.

Today, here in Monterey, we live closely with wild turkeys, as we do with so many wild natives. But in 1912 our state ornithologist, Edward Howe Forbush, probably had to travel to west-

ern New York to see one. Here are a few phrases from his identifying descriptions of turkey feathers: "body plumage generally brilliant metallic bronze, with gold, green and red reflections, each feather broad, square-ended, and tipped with a black band; rump black with dark purple gloss; upper tail-coverts chestnut with red reflections."

Turkeys are huge, four feet long with a wingspan of sixty inches. They have the longest tailfeathers of any native American bird and when he fluffs himself up for ceremonial purposes, the tom turkey triples his already resplendent bulk. He fans his tail in an instant, moving each feather with delicate precision, using tiny skin muscles. His wings droop and he rattles the quills of his wingfeathers to produce an irresistible clicking sound.

When I see an elegant tom turkey, I think of Ben Franklin, who wrote his epitaph in 1728, at the age of twenty two (he died in 1790): "The body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer (like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stripped of its lettering and gilding), lies here, food for worms; but the work shall not be lost, for it will (as he believed) appear once more in a new and more elegant edition, revised and corrected by the Author."

— Bonner McAllester

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## MONTEREY A LOCAL HISTORY

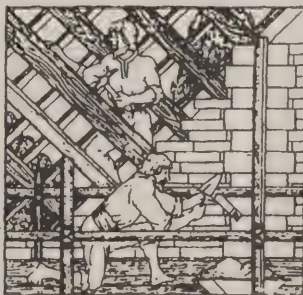
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WILD TURKEYS

canny perception and awareness of any sign of movement or danger in their surroundings. Yet these keen bow hunters also knew that flocks of turkeys tend to panic at the first indication of adversity, becoming confused and flying in all direction. They saw this behavior as cowardly, and would not choose to eat turkey if other food was available believing "you are what you eat."

In the year 1787, the founding fathers of our new country went about the task of selecting a national symbol that would reflect the power and unity of the thirteen states. Their most illustrious member, Dr. Benjamin Franklin strongly nominated the wild turkey, but the other members of the Continental congress shared the Indian's observation of their scatter-brained behavior.

So instead the bald eagle was selected. This move may have displeased Dr. Franklin, but perhaps he was soothed by the fact that the eagle was also the symbol of the Iroquois Nation Confederation, which he admired greatly and was used as a model for our new government. The eagle of the Iroquois Nation Confederation held six arrows in its talons, one for each of the six tribes in their confederation. Today our eagle still holds thirteen arrows, one for each of the original states.

More recently in the *Natural History of Birds in America*, scientists have traced the origin of the various species back to the dinosaurs, and in some instances to the reptiles. So when the Thanksgiving turkey is brought to your table in the traditional fashion, as illustrated in Norman Rockwell's famous painting *Freedom From Hunger*, you are free to make your own observations, enjoy the perpetuation of this species, and to give thanks for the blessings of the earth.

— George Emmons

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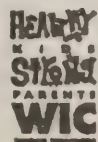
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## DINOSAUR FOR DINNER

The tradition of turkey for Thanksgiving dinner goes back three hundred and seventy seven years in New England history. When the Pilgrims invited the benevolent Chief Massasoit of the Wampanoag tribe to attend the first celebration of a successful harvest in the year 1621, he and some ninety braves showed up with five deer and some wild turkeys as their contribution to the feast.

Native Americans of that period considered the wild turkey more sagacious and difficult to hunt than the whitetail deer. They marveled at the turkey's extraordinary eyesight (today estimated at seven times that of a human) which contributes to an un-



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## WILDLIFE SURVEY

Suddenly the flowers are almost over and the trees have their glory moment. The foliage season of early October seemed to get off to a slow start. Leaves seemed to be drying up on the trees and the usual doubts that this would be a good year were expressed. Then the flare-up began and by October 7-10 the old magic was everywhere with whole hillsides turned into Persian rugs and individual trees outdoing each other in incandescence. It's true, though, as the leaves come down and the ground seems to glow back up at the remaining color above, that most of the individual leaves, though bright, are stunted, spotted-but let's not quibble!

**Witch hazel** has it all: its bright yellow leaves draw attention to this tall crooked shrub that you hardly notice the rest of the year and then you discover that it is in full fruit and full bloom as well! When the leaves are gone the yellow fringy flowers will be there into November and the hard fruit capsules will be ejecting seeds at the same time.

**Moose maple** is also suddenly everywhere. Its broad yellow leaves make it conspicuous along the roadsides and all through the woods. Its bright green bark with white stripes give it another name: "striped maple."

**Grapevines** are also revealed in this season to be far more abundant than we thought. The smell of ripe grapes will also catch your attention as you are walking by. It's musky, like the scent of a fox, hence the name "fox grapes." The fruit is too pungent for most taste buds but the Isabella, Catawba and Concord grapes were all developed from it.

**Mountain lion.** We keep getting reports but the Fish and Wildlife people still nourish their hard-nosed skepticism. Now Dale Duryea has heard of a corroborating photograph of one in Salisbury and hopes that will make it "official."

**Wood ducks.** Almost as rare as mountain lions, four of these beautiful small ducks plummeted out of the

sky and settled without a splash on the McAllesters' small pond, October 12, early in the morning.

**Black bear.** One was reported to Dale as of the end of September, near Beartown State Forest. They are not hibernating yet and won't be until snow flies and really cold weather comes. Dale walked along Rawson Brook from where it crosses Harmon Road a few days ago and saw **beaver, otter, raccoon, mink and muskrat** tracks. That's almost the full gamut of water animals, unless you count moose! He saw unusual action among the squirrels on his place. The Chinese chestnuts are ripe in their formidable burrs and the squirrels have been chewing them open, right through the tough spines and carrying some of them several hundred yards from the trees.

**Canada geese.** The air is full of them, from high-up flocks well on their migratory way to small family detachments on uneasy maneuvers, getting ready. The majestic flight and the stirring bugling is almost more exciting when it is high in the sky and faint in the distance than when it is close and urgent. It all says "change is coming!" as clearly as when an autumn wind blows a cloud of colored leaves over the treetops.

Dale says there are fox tracks around the lake margin revealed by the drawdown. They have been digging for fresh water clams. He has been seeing a couple of **deer** crossing Route 23, from the Konkapot swamp north towards the hills, nearly every morning around 7:30-8:30. It's on the east edge of Barnum's Flats just below Brewer's Corner and he advises motorists to watch out.

**Loons on Lake Garfield.** Dale heard one whistling repeatedly on October 12. This, and all the previous sightings add up to the longest presence of loons on the lake in my memory. One thinks of them on far more northerly waters and even there people are concerned that the loons may vanish for lack of sufficiently solitary habitat. Are the loons changing, seeking out human company?

— David P. McAllester



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## ROBERT H. ENSIGN

Chebeague Island, Maine - Robert H. Ensign, 84, died of cancer Tuesday, October 13 at his home here. Born in New York City, he was the son of Raymond and Caroline Ensign, and was a graduate of Brown University. He lived in New York City for much of his adult life, working as a principal in the industrial design firm of Walter Dorwin Teague. He was an avid skier and amateur pilot.

Mr. Ensign had a lifelong association with Monterey, having been brought to the village first as an infant by his parents while his father was founding the Berkshire School of Art. In the mid 1970's, Mr. Ensign and his first wife, Jill, rekindled an association with Brookbend, a building formerly belonging to the senior Ensigns. The building was restored, turned into an apartment house, and Robert Ensign lived there until the late 1980's.

Mr. Ensign is survived by his wife of eighteen years, Virginia Toohey Ensign; two sons, Robert T. Ensign, of Oswego Lake, Oregon, and Albie Maurice, of Florida, and a daughter Margaret Robards, of Suffield, Connecticut. Mr. Ensign is also survived by three stepdaughters, Norah T. Alper of Brookline, Massachusetts, Margaret T. Bossi, of Dennis, Massachusetts, and Mary T. Cushman of Chebeague Island, Maine. A private burial will follow in the spring, in Monterey.

## DR. ROBERT C. EMMEL

Dr. Robert C. Emmel, 77, of Stratford Court, Bloomfield, Connecticut, formerly of Monterey, died of cancer on October 1 at his home.

Born in Mount Vernon, New York, on November 27, 1920, he graduated from Wesleyan University in 1942 and from Cornell University Medical College in 1945.

Following an internship in general surgery at New York Hospital, he served two years as a captain in the Army. After his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at New York Lying-in Hospital in 1952, he moved to Hartford. He opened an office in West Hartford in 1954, where he practiced for thirty six years, retiring in 1990.

Dr. Emmel was a member of the staff of Hartford Hospital and volunteered his services at McCook Hospital until it closed. He was a consultant in gynecology at Newington Veteran's Hospital and held a teaching appointment as assistant clinical professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

He was a member of the Hartford Medical Society, the Hartford County Medical Association, the Connecticut State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, and the Connecticut State Medical Society's Committee on Perinatal Mortality.

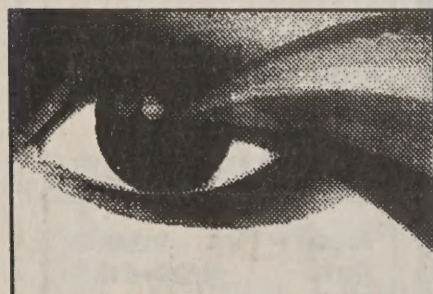
Dr. Emmel was a pioneer and champion of natural childbirth and the presence of family in the delivery room.

He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, where he served as an elder and deacon. In recent years, he had spent much of his time in the Berkshires and was active in the Monterey United Church of Christ, where he initiated a capital fund campaign. He was also an active member of the Monterey Land Trust.

While in the Berkshires he enjoyed hiking, gardening, and canoeing on Lake Garfield.

Besides his wife, the former Sarah Noyes, he leaves a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Wolinsky of Norwell, Massachusetts; three sons, Dr. David Emmel of Avon, Connecticut, Dr. Alfred Emmel II of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and Richard Emmel of Medford, Massachusetts; two sisters, Katherine Seidel of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Margaret Taylor of Albuquerque, New Mexico; two stepsons, Morgan Mead and George Mead; two stepdaughters, Merrill Mead-Fox and Caroline Gunnels; three grandchildren, and five stepgrandchildren.

Dr. Emmel was buried in Corashire Cemetery on October 25. Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Monterey Meeting House Campaign, P.O. Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245, or to Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, 32 Grand Street, Hartford, CT.



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## CALENDAR

**Wednesday, November 11**, the Town Hall will be closed for the Veteran's Day holiday.

**Monday, November 16**, South County La Leche League meets 10 a.m.-noon, at the Guthrie Center, Great Barrington. Free advice and support for breast-feeding. For more information and directions call Maureen at (413) 528-6619.

**Tuesday, November 17**, Free cholesterol and blood pressure screening, 9-10:30, in the basement of the Town Hall. These free health screenings are offered to all age groups.

**Wednesday, November 25**, Thanksgiving Eve service 7:30 p.m., United Church of Christ. This is a nondenominational service and everyone is welcome.

**Thursday, November 26**, the Town Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving day holiday.

**Saturday, November 28**, Square and contradancing at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Jeff Walker. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments served at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. For information call (413) 528-9385 or (518) 329-7578 between 8:30-11:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 28**, Second annual night of music "in the round," 7:30 p.m., with Anson Olds, John Sellow, John Humphrey and Rick Robbins. Featuring songs from the past, Irish fiddle tunes, bluegrass, and contemporary music. Suggested donation \$10, all profits to benefit the Monterey Meeting House renovation.

### Coming Events

**Saturday, December 5**, Annual PTA Holiday Sale at New Marlborough Central School, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., School Street, Mill River, Mass. Christmas trees, baked goods, books, etc.

## PERSONAL NOTES

Happy birthday greetings this month go out to **Sudi Baker** and **Heather Ferrin** on November 2, to **Emily Jane McTavish** on November 8, to **Rebecca McTavish** on November 9, to **Lisa Smyle** on November 10, to **Andi Dunlop** on November 11, to **Mariah Olds** and **Kenny Pratt** on November 12, to **Cody Amstead** on November 18, to **Florence Brown, Jenny Brown, Gale Forbes, and Kirsten Quisenberry** on November 25, to **Kerry Snyder** on November 26, and to **Nicole Amidon** on November 28.

**Shakespeare and Company's Fall Festival** of Shakespeare is coming up again this month, and Monterey students at Mount Everett and Monument Mountain Regional High Schools are involved in this year's productions. Monument's production of *Richard III* can be seen at the high school on November 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m., and again at Berkshire Community College's (BCC) Koussevitsky Arts Center on Friday, November 20, at 8:30 p.m. Mount Everett students will perform *King Lear* at the high school on November 13 and 14 at 8 p.m., and at BCC at 8:30 p.m. on November 19. The festival consists of nine Shakespeare plays performed at BCC by ten schools in the course of the weekend before Thanksgiving. It is an experience not to be missed, so remember to mark those dates on your calendars.

We enjoy hearing your news, and passing on Birthday and Anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, or give me a call at 528-6691, if possible, before the 12th of each month. If you prefer to use e-mail, my address is [higgins@vgernet.net](mailto:higgins@vgernet.net). Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins

### MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday ..... 7-9 p.m.  
Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.-noon  
Wednesday ..... 3-5 p.m.  
Saturday ..... 9:30 a.m.-noon  
..... 7-9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

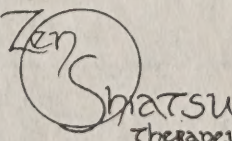
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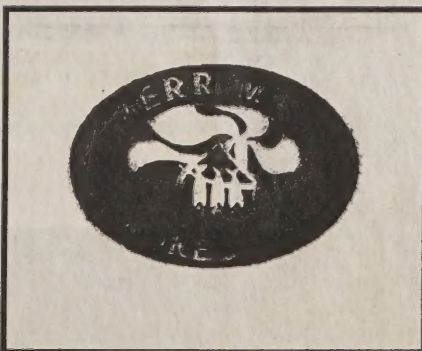
## THE OBSERVER

### September 25-October 25

High temp. (9/27) ..... 80.4°  
Low temp. (10/5) ..... 32.0°  
Wind chilled low temp. (10/23) . 12.2°  
Avg. high temp. .... 60.0°  
Avg. low temp. .... 42.0°  
Avg. temp. .... 51.0°  
High bar. press. (10/6) ..... 30.41"  
Low bar. press. (10/1) ..... 29.54"  
High wind gust (10/1) ..... 35 m.p.h.  
Precipitation-rain 4.85 inches on 11 days.



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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on Macintosh disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by

mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a Macintosh formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-1170.

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*Contributions from local artists this month: Joan Kleban pg.14. George Emmons pg.16.*

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## MONTEREY NEWS

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